



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

28 SEPTEMBER 2016

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#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### (U) Folsom – SMUD Embracing Drones for Survey Work

(U) The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will begin using drones to patrol its 500 miles of transmission lines in order to save money and improve safety. The Federal Aviation Administration earlier this year set rules for the commercial use of drones, and SMUD is taking advantage of the recent rulings. Dead and dying trees pose a problem when they fall on power lines, causing power blackouts and wild land fires. The use of drones is expected to cost SMUD 25 percent less than standard monitoring methods. The drones will be used to survey transmission lines prior to the storm season to minimize power outages.

SOURCE: 27 September 2016, [FOX 40](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### (U) District of Columbia – Cellphones of Some Democrats Targeted by Hackers

(U) Washington – The FBI is investigating suspected attempts to hack mobile phones used by Democratic Party officials as recently as the past month. US officials have said they believe those attacks were orchestrated by hackers backed by the Russian government, possibly to disrupt the 8 November election. The more recent attempt also appears to have been conducted by Russian-backed hackers. Russia has dismissed allegations that it was involved in cyber-attacks on the organizations.

SOURCE: 27 September 2016, [Reuters](#)

##### (U) Virginia – Man Pleads Guilty to Threatening Senators on Twitter

(U) Alexandria – A 28-year-old Alexandria man has pleaded guilty to threatening two Republican US senators via Twitter. Kyler Schmitz appeared in federal court in Alexandria yesterday, saying little beyond acknowledging his agreement that he was guilty of one count of making threatening interstate communications. The tweets were sent in June; just a few days after 49 people were killed at a gay club in Orlando by a man with an assault rifle. Under the plea agreement, the government will recommend a sentence of no more than six months of detention.

SOURCE: 27 September 2016, [Washington Post](#)

#### (U) INTERNATIONAL

##### (U) India – India to Not Participate in Regional Summit in Pakistan

(U) New Delhi – New Delhi will not participate in a meeting of South Asian nations to be held in Islamabad in November, its foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday. The statement didn't name Pakistan but tensions between the neighbors and arch-rivals have been high since a militant attack on an army base in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir killed 18 Indian soldiers. Indian investigators say maps, weapons and other evidence indicated that the attackers were from Jaish-e-Mohammed, an outlawed militant group based in Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charges.

SOURCE: 27 September 2016, [ABC News](#)

**(U) Spain – Five Arrested on Suspicion of Forming European ISIL Cell**

(U) Madrid – Spanish, German and Belgian authorities have arrested five people suspected of forming an "active and dangerous" cell of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and promoting radicalistic militancy in the three countries. Four of the suspects were Spanish and one was Moroccan, authorities said. Two were detained in Barcelona, one in Spain's North African enclave of Melilla, one in Brussels and one in Wuppertal, Germany. Spanish police worked in conjunction with German and Belgium federal law enforcers in the arrests. The group used social media, specifically a Facebook page "Islam en Español" (Islam in Spanish), which had over 32,000 followers, to glorify ISIL and spread the message of the militant group that operates out of Syria and Iraq, the ministry said.

SOURCE: 28 September 2016, [NY Times](#)

**(U) Syria – Syrian Government Launches Ground Attack**

(U) Aleppo – Government forces and their allies attacked the opposition-held sector of Aleppo on several fronts yesterday, the biggest ground assault yet in a massive new campaign that has destroyed a US-backed ceasefire. The United States says the assault on Aleppo is proof that President Bashar al-Assad and his Russian and regional allies have abandoned an international peace process to pursue victory on the battlefield after nearly six years of civil war. The ceasefire that the United States agreed to with Russia earlier this month, collapsed after a week. More than 250,000 civilians are believed to be trapped inside the besieged rebel-held sector of Aleppo, where intensive bombing over the past week has killed hundreds of people, many trapped under buildings brought down by bunker-busting bombs.

SOURCE: 27 September 2016, [Reuters](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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